

## President praises promise of AFOSR researchers

by Jean Schaefer, AFOSR

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On February 10, President Clinton named Air Force Office of Scientific Research researchers Dr. Daniel J. Blumenthal and Dr. Elizabeth C. Dickey among the 60 young researchers who received the third annual Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. This is the highest honor a young professional can receive at the outset of their independent research careers from the United States government.

Recipients of the award receive a five-year research grant to further their study in support of critical government missions.

"Dr. Blumenthal's work on multi-wavelength optical techniques for data processing and transmission offers a basis for increases by a factor of 1,000 in data storage and bandwidth," said Dr. Jack Agee, director of the physics and electronics directorate of AFOSR.

"Professor Dickey has developed a number of techniques for characterizing interfaces in materials, particularly high temperature ceramic materials," said Dr. Alex Pechenik, acting director of the aerospace and material

science directorate at AFOSR. "Her command of electron microscopy, x-ray diffraction and neutron diffraction has brought some important insights into the structure of interfaces."

These awards were established by Clinton in February 1996 and embody the high priority the administration places on recognizing and nurturing the development of scientists.

Nine federal departments nominated scientists and engineers who will broadly advance science and technology that will be of the greatest benefit to these agencies. The participating agencies are: the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs; the Environmental Protection Agency; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and the National Science Foundation.

"These talented young men and women show exceptional potential for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge," Clinton said. "Their passion for discovery will spark our can-do spirit of technological innovation and drive this nation forward to build a better America for the twenty-first century." @